

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT
RANGE 31: WEAPONS DEMONSTRATION RANGE, PARCEL 89Q-X, AND
FORMER DEFENDUM FIELD FIRING RANGE NO. 2, PARCEL 215Q
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

AUGUST 2006

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment within portions of Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q, located at the former Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the background information used as the basis for the Army's decision for this site with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The site location at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Transition Force at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing

environmental investigations at FTMC.

Including their extensive range safety fans, Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q encompass areas of approximately 1,400 acres and 2,200 acres, respectively (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). As shown on Figure 1, however, the area of investigation for a site investigation (SI) conducted to determine the presence or absence of environmental contamination was limited to an approximately 322-acre area encompassing the firing lines and probable impact areas of the former ranges.

The eastern portion of the site, which covers approximately 192 acres, was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in May 2003. The western portion, which covers approximately 130 acres, was transferred to the Anniston-Calhoun County Fort McClellan Development Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in September 2003 under Early Transfer Authority. At the far western end of the site, the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board has identified an approximately 3-acre area adjacent to MOUT Road as the location for a future municipal water tank. The 3-acre area will

be transferred to JPA. Figure 2 shows property use at the site.

Based on the results of the SI and future property use within the area of investigation at Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action with regard to CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances for the 192-acre eastern portion and the 3-acre far western portion of the site. The remaining 130-acre western portion of the site will be addressed in accordance with existing Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) No. DASW01-03-2-0001 between the Army and JPA, and in accordance with Cleanup Agreement No. AL4 210 020 562 between ADEM and JPA (hereinafter referred to as the Cleanup Agreement). These decisions were made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by ADEM.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q. The background documents for Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q are listed on Page 2 and are

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 89Q-X AND 215Q

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, Final, January.

IT Corporation, 2000, *Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, Final, July.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, Final, July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2006, *Site Investigation Report, Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, Final, August.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001, *Archives Search Report Maps (Revision 1), Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, September.

available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

The former FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S.

Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

SITE BACKGROUND

The former FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consisted of three main areas: Main Post, Pelham Range, and Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama until May 1998. The Main Post, which occupied 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of

the former Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot to the south.

Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q, are located in the northern-central area of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The parcel boundary for Range 31 encompasses a large, overlapping area of the Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2.

Parcel 89Q-X. Range 31 was used as a weapons demonstration range from 1951 through 1984 or 1985. Several types of weapons were reportedly used at this range, including grenade launchers, light anti-tank weapons, flash rounds (mixture of jellied fuel and powdered magnesium and aluminum), live warheads on armor-piercing rounds, incendiary rockets, and various small arms,

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Paula Barnett-Ellis (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

including pistols, rifles, and machine guns (ESE, 1998).

Parcel 215Q. Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2 (Parcel 215Q) was first identified on a map entitled “Ranges, 1948.” The firing line for this range is located in the western portion of Range 31, with the direction of fire to the southeast (Figure 1). Weapons fired at this range were assumed to have been restricted to small arms. No other information is available regarding the dates of use or operation of this range (ESE, 1998).

During SI site reconnaissance, several range-related features were observed within the area of investigation. A line of buried concrete bollards, suspected to be a firing line for small arms, was

noted at the western end of Range 31; approximately 25 feet east of this area was a 200-foot-long berm and possibly a line of pop-up targets. To the east of these features was a series of shallow depressions, each with a pole and possible blasting wire, suggestive of demolition/explosive simulation blasting holes. Similar depressions were noted throughout the range. Other small depressions, most likely used for pop-up targets, were also prevalent throughout the western portion of the area of investigation.

A concrete building, apparently used to control moving targets, was also observed approximately 1,000 feet downrange. A berm, a drum, and several spent light anti-tank rounds and 40mm practice

rounds were also noted in the vicinity of the building.

Numerous items used as targets were observed in the western portion of the site. These items included pop-up targets and military vehicles (e.g., jeeps, tanks, and armored personnel carriers). Shrapnel and metal debris were scattered throughout the area.

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF
PARCEL**

Information developed from the *Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance (ESE, 1998). All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-

CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q were categorized as CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal, but do have other environmental or safety concerns. Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q were qualified for the potential presence of chemicals of concern (e.g., lead) as a result of historical range activities. Parcel 89Q-X was also qualified "X" for the potential presence of unexploded ordnance.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q will remain CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2006). The SI consisted of the collection of 47 surface and depositional soil samples, 42 subsurface soil samples, and 4 groundwater samples. In addition, five groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the site during the SI; however, one of the wells did not produce sufficient water for sampling. All samples were analyzed for potential range-related constituents, namely metals, explosive compounds, and perchlorate; approximately 15 percent of the samples were analyzed for a broader list of

constituents, including volatile organic compounds, semivolatiles organic compounds, pesticides, and herbicides.

To determine the presence or absence of contamination, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to FTMC background values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). Site metals data were further evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site samples were naturally occurring or if they were indicative of contamination.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background were selected as chemicals of potential concern (COPC) in site media. COPCs were aluminum in surface soil, five metals (aluminum, chromium, iron, thallium, and vanadium) in subsurface soil, and four pesticides (4,4'-DDE, endrin aldehyde, heptachlor, and heptachlor epoxide) in groundwater. The statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that the metals identified as COPCs were present at naturally occurring levels. The SI concluded that the pesticides in groundwater do not pose an unacceptable risk to

human health based on the low estimated levels detected, the relative magnitude of the exceedances, and taking into account comparisons to available federal drinking water standards.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background were selected as constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) in surface soil. Exposures to subsurface soil and groundwater are unlikely for ecological receptors at this site. COPECs included five metals (aluminum, copper, lead, mercury, and selenium), one herbicide (MCPP), two pesticides (4,4'-DDE and gamma-BHC), and one explosive compound (2,4,6-trinitrotoluene). The SI concluded that the organic COPECs do not pose an unacceptable risk to potential ecological receptors based on the conservatism inherent in the ESVs, the relative magnitude of the exceedances, and their infrequent detection in surface soil. The SI further concluded that only copper and lead, both of which are known constituents of ammunition, should be retained as COPECs.

The SI determined that the copper and lead concentrations above ESVs are almost exclusively found in the western portion of the area of investigation, within the property transferred to JPA. The elevated copper and lead concentrations are located in areas where targets and target-related features are present and bullet fragments are visible on the ground, particularly in the central downrange area approximately 750 feet west of the dirt road that bisects the area of investigation. The SI also determined that the

192-acre eastern portion and 3-acre far western portion of the site had not been adversely impacted by historical Army activities.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q.

DECLARATION

Based on the results of the SI and given the future land use of the site, the Army declares that remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary for the 192-acre eastern portion and 3-acre far western portion of the site at

Parcels 89Q-X and 215Q. The no-action alternative protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and has no cost. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of these areas or that require land-use control restrictions. The eastern and far western portions of the site are released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the eastern and far western portions of Range 31: Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q.

The 130-acre western portion of the site (excluding the 3-acre far western area) will be addressed in accordance with the ESCA and Cleanup Agreement.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Gary Harvey
Fort McClellan Site Manager
Tel: (256) 848-3847

e-mail: gary.e.harvey@us.army.mil

ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPC	chemical of potential concern
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ESCA	Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
JPA	Anniston-Calhoun County Fort McClellan Development Joint Powers Authority
Shaw	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Prepared under direction of:

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Date

Reviewed by:

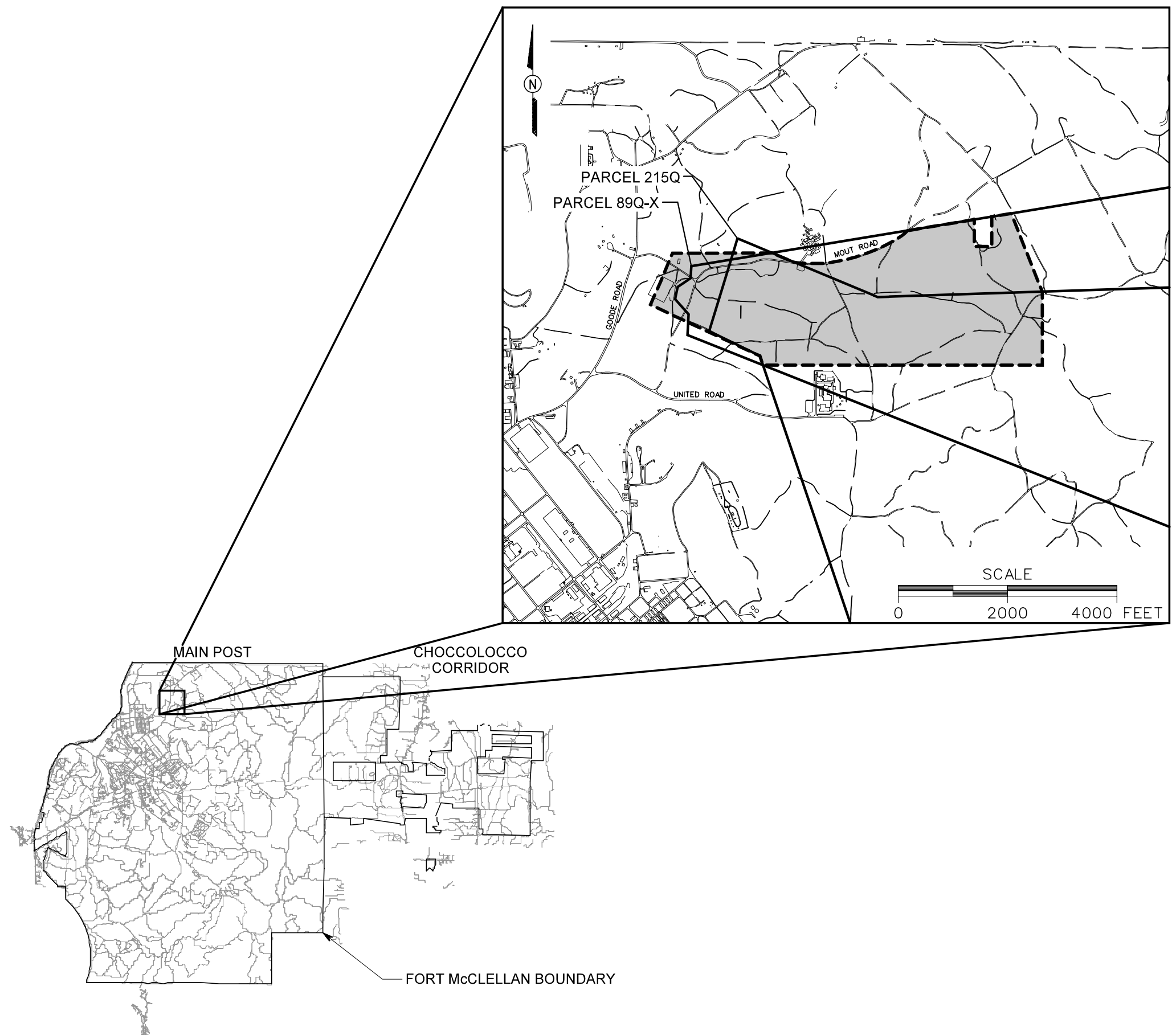
Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Thomas E. Lederle
Chief, Industrial Conveyance Branch
Army BRAC Division

Date



LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- PAVED ROAD AND PARKING
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- AREA OF INVESTIGATION

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
RANGE, 31 WEAPONS DEMONSTRATION
RANGE, PARCEL 89Q-X, AND
FORMER DEFENDUM FIELD FIRING
RANGE NO. 2, PARCEL 215Q

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT
FORT McCLELLAN
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018

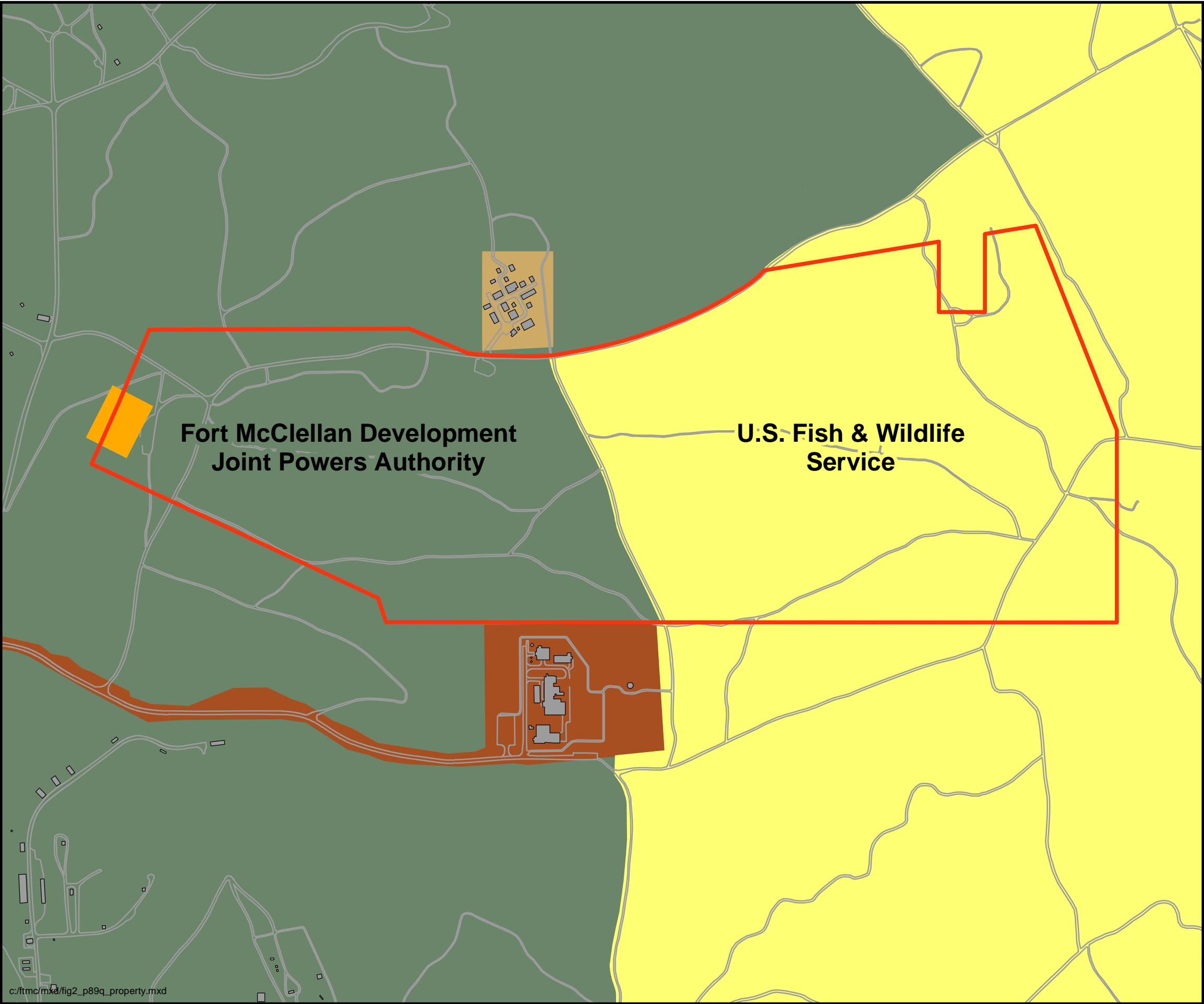


Figure 2

Property Map

Range 31, Weapons Demonstration Range, Parcel 89Q-X, and Former Defendum Field Firing Range No. 2, Parcel 215Q
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Legend

- Roads
- Area of Investigation
- Buildings
- AWWSB Water Tank Site
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Alabama Army National Guard
- Department of Justice
- FTMC Development JPA



NAD83 State Plane Coordinates



Shaw Shaw Environmental, Inc.



Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018